

Gardner-Webb

THE MAGAZINE

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**CLASS OF 2009
AND AUTHOR, RON RASH**

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MAJOR GIFT TO BASEBALL PROGRAM

ABOUT THE COVER

First unveiled at the May 2006 graduation to signify Dr. A. Frank Bonner's first spring commencement as the president of Gardner-Webb University, this medallion is worn by all candidates for graduation and by all faculty and staff.

The medallion, sporting the Gardner-Webb seal and motto, along with the institution's founding date of 1905, was cast specifically for the May 2006 event and continues to be worn by all the participants in commencement exercises.

The medallion was designed and produced by Image Marketing Group of Shelby, N.C.

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THE MAGAZINE

Gardner-Webb - The Magazine Credits

Volume 43 Number 2

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MAINTAINING MISSION AND MOMENTUM

Several of Yogi Berra's humorous and paradoxical statements actually contain some wisdom and good sense. Perhaps his most famous is, "The future ain't what it used to be." The current economic distress portends a future much different than previously anticipated. Much is being written about how society and culture will be different after the experiences of this recession—for the better, we hope, after hard lessons have been learned.

Like virtually all other institutions, higher education is experiencing economic distresses, and there are prophets of doom who are predicting the demise of many colleges and universities. Indeed, there are regular reports of unfortunate situations at schools both public and private—salaries and benefits reduced, positions eliminated, furloughs, programs cut, etc.

At Gardner-Webb University, we are taking the economic conditions very, very seriously, but we like the expression (not original to us) that "we have chosen not to participate in the recession." We are examining our finances, making financial decisions, and crafting plans, all with great care, but we are also determined that the quality of the students' educational experience will not be compromised. One of the most dangerous things a university can do is to lose momentum and to fall into a downward cycle of retrenchment.

Instead, we are committed to maintaining our mission and maintaining momentum. Just as society may benefit in the long run from valuable lessons learned through this economic crisis, institutions will benefit from being compelled to examine carefully their mission, their core values, and their operations. At Gardner-Webb we are looking prayerfully and thoughtfully at what we are really all about, and in doing so we become strengthened and recommitted to that mission. Ultimately, Gardner-Webb University is about advancing the kingdom of God through higher education—specifically by preparing and motivating our students not only to live meaningful and fulfilled lives, but also to make the world a better place and the lives of others better, through faith, service, and leadership. So now, more than ever, it is time we refocus and recommit to our Christian principles and core values.

We are also maintaining momentum. There are numerous examples, large and small. A new residence hall with suite-style rooms is under construction and will be ready for the fall. We are progressing well with the Strategic Plan. Fund-raising, the campaign, and alumni activities are continuing and actually increasing in intensity. We have proceeded with important student activities which could have been cut, ranging from the summer term abroad in Heidelberg, Germany (subsidized by the University) to awards dinners for students. New initiatives are underway, including an exciting new Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

We are aware that we must work harder, smarter, and more efficiently. We must work especially hard at advancing and promoting the University, and at recruiting and retaining top students. Our Enrollment Management staff is doing great work and is making remarkable advances. We have developed and implemented a comprehensive retention plan under the direction of the newly appointed Associate Vice President for Retention and Student Success. Exciting and aggressive marketing plans are nearing completion.

Most of all, we need to remember that "it is all about students." One of the greatest things alumni and friends can do for Gardner-Webb is to support endowed scholarships for students. The benefits of endowed scholarships are "played forward" more than we can ever know. Recently, while talking with a student, I asked about her major and career plans. She said that she had always assumed that she would never be able to afford to pursue her real educational goals and that she would settle for a partial education and later a menial job. Now a top student at Gardner-Webb, she plans to pursue a graduate degree, and perhaps a doctorate, and then work with disadvantaged children. Later, she may teach in a university. I am confident that she will make a difference in the lives of those children. I wonder how many of them will go on to make a difference in the lives of others, and then

A scholarship made it possible and made all the difference.

Maintaining mission, and maintaining momentum—for God and Humanity.

Sincerely,



Frank Bonner
President



GARDNER-WEBB CELEBRATES EARTH DAY AWARENESS

Gardner-Webb University recognized Earth Day 2009 with a month of activities and events. This year's Earth Day focus was on the issue of clean water.

Gardner-Webb hosted a variety of events including guest speakers and a six-week long well drive competition. Students raised funds to donate to the *Blood: Water Mission*. The well drive was designed to bring awareness for the need of clean drinking water in Africa. Every dollar that was donated provides one person with clean drinking water for an entire year.

The *Blood: Water Mission* is a non-profit organization founded by members of a multi-platinum, Grammy-award winning band, Jars of Clay, to address the HIV crisis in Africa. *Blood: Water Mission* exists to promote clean blood and clean water efforts in Africa, through tangibly reducing the impact of HIV pandemic while addressing the underlying issue of poverty, injustice and oppression.

An additional component of Earth Day celebrations featured speaker Jonathan Merritt. Merritt is the national spokesperson for the Southern Baptist Environment and Climate Initiative. As a young faith and culture writer, his work has appeared in national outlets like The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and Relevant, Outreach, Homelife and Charisma magazines. As a voice for young evangelicals, he has been featured by media outlets such as TIME Magazine, The New York Times, National Public Radio and ABC World News.

An Earth Day Informational Fair also took place featuring live music, booths and displays focusing on pollution, recycling, solar energy, vegetable oil driven vehicles and more.

**In the next issue of Gardner-Webb – The Magazine, look for the story of how college students have come together to create a vegetable oil driven vehicle.*

GWU REACHED OUT TO AIDS ORPHANS IN AFRICA

Gardner-Webb University Athletics hosted the "Hoops of Hope" event in March to raise awareness and funds for African AIDS-orphans.

"Hoops of Hope" is the basketball version of a walk-a-thon. All donations for this event project will help to build a medical lab and counseling center that is greatly needed in Zambia, Africa.

"The free throw shooting is the fun-filled part of the charity fundraiser. It is symbolic of how many kids are orphaned everyday by AIDS in Africa," said Bryant Davis, co-organizer for the event.

A 10-year-old boy named Austin Gutwein who watched a video about AIDS orphans in Africa and became heartbroken started "Hoops of Hope." He combined his passion for basketball with his desire to reach innocent children. In one day, Gutwein shot 2,057 free throws, representing the number of children who are orphaned everyday by AIDS in Africa. Through his efforts, he was able to

raise \$3,000.

In the GWU event, participants signed up to shoot free throws in recognition of the African need. Donations are still being accepted for this effort.

For more information please visit www.firstgiving.com/bryantdavis or call 704-406-4343. For other ways to get involved in "Hoops of Hope," visit www.hoopsofhope.org.

GWU THEATRE RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Gardner-Webb University's Theatre Program was featured this year in American Theatre magazine for incorporating technology in the production of "LEAR ReLoaded."

The article focused on the use of technology or "new media" in theatre productions. Because upcoming generations are huge consumers of technology, using new media is a necessity in order to pull young audiences into the world of theatre. GWU was among select universities showcased as successful examples of integrating media into performances.

Scot Lahaie, director of GWU Theatre said, "It is indeed an honor to find our work referenced in American Theatre magazine. It means that our program has received national recognition, which is simply monumental for a small program like our own."

Christopher Keene, designer and technical director for GWU Theatre said, "It is great to see that our creative work here is not going unnoticed. The article really brings attention to both our academic program and the University."

"We approached the play conceptually as a deconstructed version of King Lear. As an aspect of deconstruction, the area that interested me most was the idea of 'visual symbols' for representation or reinforcement of the core themes and concepts in the play," said Keene. "The show featured custom video loops and PowerPoint slideshows."

According to Mark Houser, projection master for LEAR ReLoaded, "It's nearly impossible not to see media incorporated in the production with the many projections and televisions around the action; there was also live feed from a held video camera projected on screens and even projected on the actors themselves."

The article appeared in the January 2009 issue of American Theatre entitled "The Case For Live Movies" and is also available online at www.tcg.org/publications/at/jan09/home.



Scene from "LEAR ReLoaded"

SPRING COMES ALIVE AT ANNUAL FESTIVAL

GWU and the town of Boiling Springs hosted the 4th Annual Springs Alive Festival on April 4. "This was a great family-friendly event. We had live music, arts and crafts vendors, and games for the kids and more. We had a great turnout and the weather was picture-perfect," said Springs Alive Committee member, Jeff Powell.

This year's event also featured a classic car show, tractor rides, the Broyhill Adventure Course and the WGWG Pickin' Tent where anyone with an acoustic instrument was welcome to play.

Music at Springs Alive was provided by a variety of performers including bluegrass from the Flint Hill Band and Darin and Brooke Aldridge. Other acts included The Gardner-Webb Jazz Band, the Joyful Hands Sign Choir, area elementary school choirs and dance performances by local dance troupes.

Next year's event is already in the planning stages with a 2010 Springs Alive date of April 17. For more information about the festival call 704-406-4631 or e-mail info@boilingspringsnc.net.

REGIONAL ASTRONOMERS EXPLORE STRANGE NEW WORLDS AT GWU.

On Jan. 24, Gardner-Webb University hosted the 17th annual Regional Meeting of Amateur Astronomers. Since the inception of this event, several thousand have participated in the activities made possible through the Gardner-Webb Craven E. Williams Observatory. This year's event brought out more than 150 people to explore the worlds of amateur astronomy.

Guest speaker John Goss of the National Astronomical League offered thoughts on issues and opportunities impacting amateur astronomers in today's world of technology. The Astronomical League is composed of over 240 amateur astronomical societies from across the United States with the goal of encouraging an interest in astronomy throughout America. An additional speaker was Gardner-Webb Associate Provost of Arts and Sciences, Dr. James Dire. His topic covered "Building A Backyard Observatory."

Roger Ivestor, a member of the CCAS (Cleveland County Astronomical Society) and a past president of the group believes this is a worthwhile event. "Anyone with interest in astronomy should come to this event each January. It's truly a time that people of all backgrounds, old and new faces, come together to celebrate the beauty of the sky."

The Regional Meeting of Amateur Astronomers also included equipment vendors, swap tables, networking with other astronomers, an astrophotography and sketching contest and a Williams Observatory open house.

The Williams Observatory has served as a resource for educators and amateur astronomers from the region since 1989. The Observatory is home to academic astronomy classes, public viewing nights each month, and numerous educational programs held year-round. Next year's regional meeting is scheduled for Jan. 23, 2010.





HUDSON RIVER AIRLINE CRASH SURVIVOR SHARES STORY AT GWU

Each year Gardner-Webb hosts numerous speakers and lectures covering a variety of topics and issues. In April, the Godbold School of Business and Center for Ethics and Entrepreneurship at GWU welcomed Gerry McNamara, an international executive with Heidrick & Struggles and an airline crash survivor.

Earlier this year, McNamara appeared as a guest on the Oprah Winfrey show to share his experience as a passenger on board the U.S. Airways flight that crashed into New York's Hudson River. McNamara was one of 155 survivors on the flight. Flight 1549, was headed to Charlotte, N.C., when it went down on Jan. 15, 2009. While on its initial climb, Flight 1549 struck a flock of Canada Geese disabling the jet engines.

The entire crew of Flight 1549 was recognized throughout the world and this year awarded the Master's Medal of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators. The award citation read, "This emergency ditching and evacuation, with the loss of no lives, is a heroic and unique aviation achievement."

While at Gardner-Webb, McNamara shared his story of triumph over tragedy in relations to the events of the crash. "I witnessed the best of humanity that day. I am struck by what was truly a miracle." He also said that you never know how you are going to react in a crisis situation until it happens. "After we heard the pilot say, 'Brace for impact,' there was nothing else said. When something hits you square in the face, pray about what to do." He also had the opportunity to share words of wisdom from the business community during his visit.

McNamara is a managing partner of Heidrick & Struggles (headquartered in Chicago, Ill.) and serves as the leader of their

Central Investment Office and Practice across America. He works with a wide range of clients across virtually every industry to include diversified financial services, such as insurance, industrial, higher education, not-for-profit, and healthcare. Prior to joining Heidrick & Struggles in 1995, McNamara spent over 15 years in information technology with IBM, where he served in high-level sales, marketing and service positions.

More information is available on future events by calling the Center for Continuing Professional Education at 704-406-3270 or the Godbold School of Business at 704-406-3229.

**Look for an exclusive interview with Gerry McNamara in the next issue of Gardner-Webb –The Magazine.*

A RARE DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM COMBINING THEOLOGY WITH COUNSELING BEGINS THIS FALL

GWU School of Divinity & Psychology Partnership for Effort.

Gardner-Webb University is proud to announce a new dual degree - Master of Divinity, and Master of Arts and Educational Specialist in Mental Health Counseling. Scheduled for a fall 2009 start date, this unique program brings together GWU's School of Divinity and School of Psychology (Mental Health Counseling).

The dual degree program is designed to meet the needs of individuals who seek to integrate theology, faith, and spirituality with counseling theory and clinical experience in the mental health field. The program meets educational requirements of the licensure

Continued on next page

of professional counselors in North Carolina and other states. It will also meet the increasing demands of Gardner-Webb graduate students for a theologically based counseling program in the mental health field.

This new graduate program is expected to draw from undergraduates in psychology and religious studies. It will also offer opportunities for those who work in pastoral care and counseling who are looking for the option of practicing as independent counselors. It will appeal to those graduates who are seeking the combination of theology counseling.

Gardner-Webb Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling and Program Coordinator, Dr. Jim Whitlow, says there was a need for a theological based program in mental health for the region, noting that there are only a couple in North Carolina. Whitlow says the program will train and assist individuals in a number of career options, including working at Christian counseling centers and in the church. "This is a very applicable program." The program will begin with its first cohort this fall.



GARDNER-WEBB EARNS NATIONAL HONOR

GWU Named to the Presidential Honor Roll for Community Service for 2nd Year

"In this time of economic distress, we need volunteers more than ever. College students represent an enormous pool of idealism and energy to help tackle some of our toughest challenges," said Stephen Goldsmith, vice chair of the board of directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the Presidential Honor Roll. "We salute Gardner-Webb University for making community service a campus priority, and thank the millions of college students who are helping to renew America through service to others."

The Honor Roll, launched in 2006, recognizes colleges and universities nationwide that support innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs. The Honor Roll's Presidential Award is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement. Gardner-Webb was one of only 635 universities and colleges nationwide to be named to the Presidential Honor Roll.

Professor Susan Manahan, Gardner-Webb's coordinator of Service-Learning, witnessed first hand the labor and dedication of the University's students. "Over 1,300 students participated in over 20,000 hours of various service related activities including mission trips, working with Habitat for Humanity and volunteering in the community."

The Honor Roll candidates were chosen on several deciding factors, including scope of innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers service-learning courses.

Gardner-Webb Provost and Senior Vice President, Ben Leslie is pleased to see students get this kind of recognition. "We are delighted to be honored in this way for the second year in a row. Service-learning and community engagement go to the very heart of who we are at Gardner-Webb University. More and more Americans seem to be coming to the conclusion that as important as a college education is, education alone is not enough. At Gardner-Webb we are really interested in an education that makes a difference. It's gratifying to see an outside, national agency affirm and endorse this part of our character."



ALPHA CHI STUDENTS WIN TOP HONORS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eight Students Represent GWU in Indianapolis

Gardner-Webb's Alpha Chi chapter is catapulting GWU into national academic prominence in undergraduate research. Alpha Chi students from 63 colleges and universities nationwide competed for scholarships and presentation prizes. Eight Gardner-Webb students presented their projects, and several won honors.

The prizewinners are as follows:

- **Sarah Fisher** won a national Nolle Scholarship for "The Attempts of Pius XII to Aid Hungarian Jews: An Investigation of 'Hitler's Pope.'" (Mentor: Dr. David Yelton)
- **Sarah Fisher** also won the British literature presentation prize at the conference for "Dominant Discourse Versus Subjugated Silence: An Examination of Language and the Subaltern Identity within 'The Intended' and 'Brick Lane.'" (Mentor: Dr. Cheryl Duffus)
- **Jennifer Cheek** won the religious studies presentation prize for "YHWH as Mother: Redeeming the Feminine in the Book of Hosea." (Mentor: Dr. Paula Qualls)
- **Lauren Quesenberry** won the American literature presentation prize for "'Audre Lorde' as the Quintessential Non-essentialist." (Mentor: Dr. June Hobbs)

"Alpha Chi students at Gardner-Webb University are consistently first-class students who have gained a reputation at the national convention as formidable competitors who present their research both competently and enthusiastically. I couldn't be prouder of them," said June Hobbs, department chair of English Language and Literature and faculty advisor for Alpha Chi.

Alpha Chi is a general honor society admitting students from all academic disciplines with nearly 300 chapters across the country. The name Alpha Chi is the initial letters of the Greek words ALETHEIA and CHARAKTER, meaning Truth and Character.



FAMILY TIES: A GARDNER-WEBB LEGACY CONTINUES TO UNFOLD

In a 1959 issue of The Gardner-Webb College Quarterly, writers marked our school as a family institution. Fifty years later, those words still ring true and the family tradition continues to grow and represent the greater Gardner-Webb community. A prime example of those who make Gardner-Webb a familial institution is the Huggins family. The Huggins-Curtis Memorial Arch was erected in part to honor Mr. J.D. Huggins.

Huggins was the first principal of Boiling Springs High School and the first dean of Gardner-Webb as a Junior College. He was loved and respected by students, faculty, staff and the community. Nearly 40 immediate and extended family members of Huggins have gone through the halls of Gardner-Webb as students, faculty and staff.

Gardner-Webb continues to make a lasting impression on the Huggins family just as the Huggins family continues to leave their mark on this institution. As a gift to the University, the Senior Class of 2008 chose to relocate the Huggins-Curtis Memorial Arch so that it could reclaim its place as a signature structure on campus and as a legacy of our University. The rededication of the Huggins-Curtis Memorial Arch took place in its new location during the Homecoming festivities last fall. Numerous members of the Huggins family attended this momentous occasion.



GWU Spring 09 Graduation

SPRING GRADUATION HONORS 512 GARDNER-WEBB STUDENTS

Ron Rash, award-winning author and GWU alumnus, presents commencement address and awarded Honorary Doctorate

It was a time of celebration for a job well done as Gardner-Webb University honored its graduates during the 2008-09 spring commencement exercises. Over 500 graduates were recognized in two ceremonies on Monday, May 11.

The morning ceremony was dedicated to all undergraduate students. Famed Author, Ron Rash, delivered the commencement address for this ceremony. Since 1994, Rash has had numerous novels, short stories, and collections of poetry selected for awards. His most recent novel, "Serena," received rave reviews in the New York Times and has been optioned for film rights. Rash,

a native of South Carolina received a B.A. in English from Gardner-Webb and a M.A. in English from Clemson University, Clemson, S.C.

Rash currently serves as Parris Distinguished professor in Appalachian Cultural Studies at Western Carolina University, located in Cullowhee, N.C. His speech was a message of how we begin learning from others at an early age, especially those close to us. Rash gave the example of his grandfather, who could not read or write. As a child, Rash says his Grandfather would take one of his storybooks and bring it to life by putting the story into his own words/version.

"My grandfather could not teach me how to read, but he taught me how to use my imagination." Before long, Rash was drawn to the world of literature. "How could I

not grow up believing words were magical. How could I not want to be a writer," said Rash. (*see additional comments on following pages)

During the ceremony, Rash was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Gardner-Webb. Since its inception at Gardner-Webb in 1971, the University has presented a total of 56 Honorary Doctorates to deserving individuals.

In closing, Rash's message was made clear to graduates and their family and friends. "Today we honor you as you honor those who came before you and prepared the way for this education. Celebrate them and let them know."

At the afternoon ceremony, students were awarded graduate degrees for completing masters and doctoral work. Two graduates, John A. Tagliarini of

Bryson City, N.C., and Deardre J. Gibson of Gastonia, N.C., had the honor of presenting commencement speeches.

Gibson received a Doctor of Education degree and told the audience that the GWU graduate program provided an opportunity for students to foster meaningful intellectual discussions. "I was fortunate to meet colleagues from diverse backgrounds and geographic areas and collaborate with administrators, who helped me to grow professionally through their experiences and insight," said Gibson.

Tagliarini, who received a Doctor of Ministry degree, said his experience at GWU offered opportunities for growth and rejuvenation. "My three years in pursuit of a degree resulted in a renewed sense that God has called me to and equipped me for ministry."

This was also the first date that numerous degrees were presented:

- M. A. in Religion - Justin Matthew Webb of Lattimore, N.C.
- B. M. in Music with Elective Studies in Music Business - Sarah Ann Huskey of Lyman, S.C.
- B.A. in English as a Second Language - Abigail Marie Helms of Charlotte, N.C., and Ruth Nicole McCall of Mooresville, N.C.
- B. S. in Environmental Science - Amber Renee Bellamy of Kingsport, Tenn., and Ross Evan Simmons of Shelby, N.C.

Other recognition honors included:

Most Outstanding Male Graduate Medal Winner - Jordan Thomas Tubbs of Shelby, N.C., with a B.A. in Communication Studies.

Most Outstanding Female Graduate Medal Winner - Sarah Elizabeth Seagroves of Talbott, Tenn., with a B.S. in Economics and Finance.

Other Scholastic Achievement winners were

- Jennifer Elizabeth Cheek (Religious Studies), Hamptonville, N.C.
- Kara Beth Davenport (Psychology), Jefferson City, Tenn.
- Holly Marie Grabowski (Psychology/Sociology), Lillington, N.C.
- Kevin Francis Graybeal (Social Sciences/Business Administration), Burlington, N.C.
- Sarah Ann Huskey (Music with Elective Studies in Music Business), Lyman, S.C.
- Megan Elizabeth Looper (Spanish), Gastonia, N.C.
- Sarah Cristine Owens (Middle Grades Education), Browns Summit, N.C.
- Sarah Elizabeth Seagroves (Economics and Finance), Talbott, Tenn.

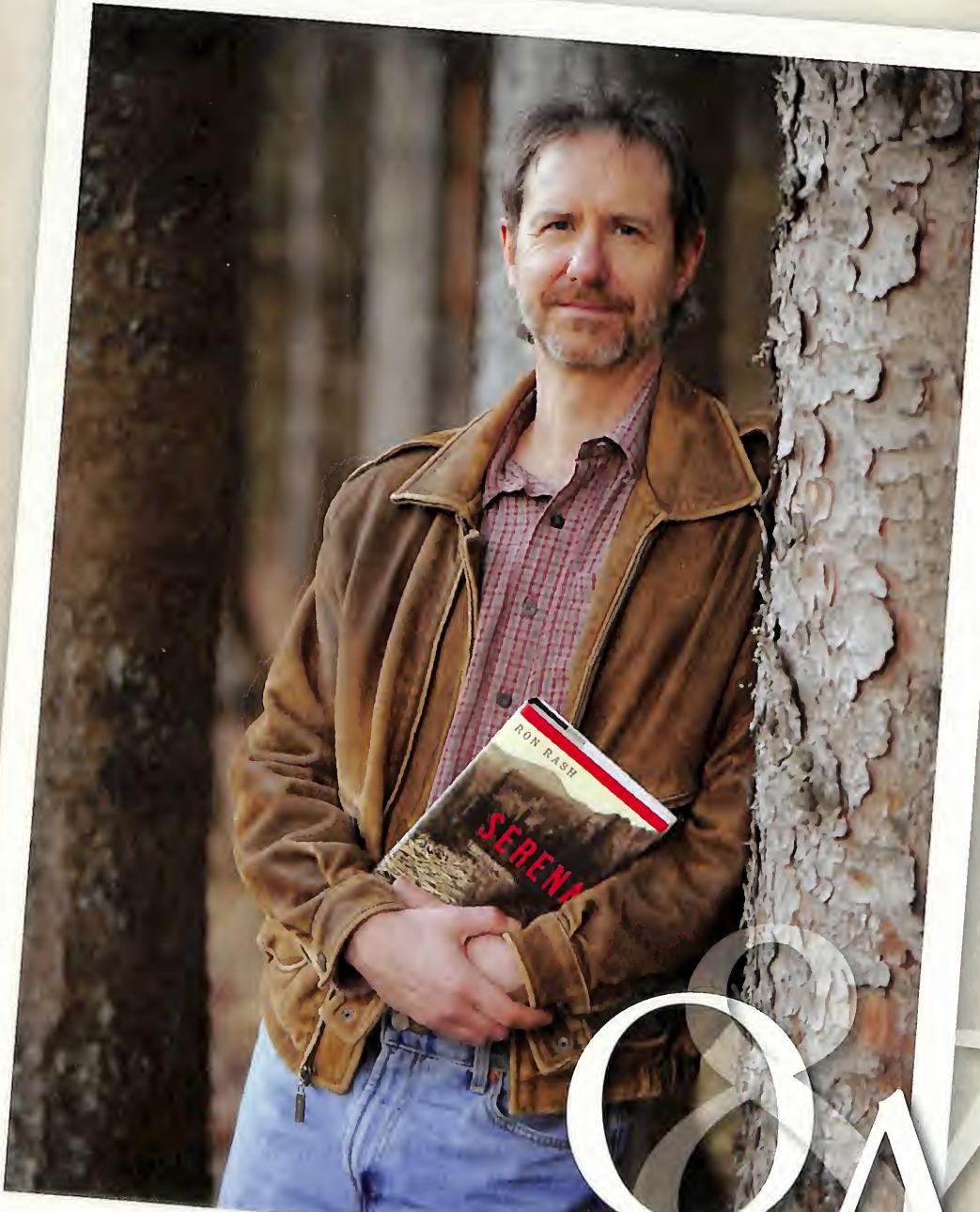




Gardner-Webb University

To all in whom these presents may come, Greeting
Be it known that
Rachel Lynne Redding
completed the prescribed course of study and having compli-
ed with the requirements of the University, has upon the recommenda-
tion of the Board of Trustees
the Degree of
Bachelor of Arts

The Write Thing



Dr. Ron Rash

Gardner-Webb – The Magazine took the opportunity during commencement week to spend some time with Dr. Ron Rash. Rash has earned numerous national awards and honors for literature; and his latest work, "Serena" has also been optioned for film. Rash, a GWU alumnus shared some thoughts about education, Gardner-Webb and the connection between athletics and writing.

Gardner-Webb – The Magazine: “What were some of your early memories relating to reading and writers?”

Dr. Ron Rash – “I grew up in a house where books were important. I also grew up very aware of the southern tradition of writers. Those things worked together for me as influences. I also liked reading Jack London, Mark Twain and the Hardy Boys mysteries when I was younger.”

Gardner-Webb – The Magazine: “When did you realize that you wanted to write?”

Dr. Ron Rash: “I didn’t get excited about writing until I took Joyce Brown’s literature class at Gardner-Webb when I was a sophomore. Joyce had this great love of literature and made it very exciting. She was also very supportive of me and of my writing. I felt my work was rough and raw. But writing is like anything; you have to do a certain amount of training to get better and that’s what I was doing at Gardner-Webb.”

Gardner-Webb – The Magazine: “Are there other things about Gardner-Webb that were important for you and your desire to write?”

Dr. Ron Rash: “Going to a small school and getting the type of individual attention that I got at Gardner-Webb was crucial for me. It was also at Gardner-Webb where I discovered the first writer to overwhelm me; it was (William) Faulkner. When I was at Gardner-Webb, I pretty much read everything he ever wrote.”

Very early on I did not write very well but there was something inside me that refused to give up. I also felt that I owed it to my parents and grandparents to do the most I could with my education and part of that was to see what I could do with my writing. Ultimately I felt that there was a kind of debt that I owed to those who came before me.

Once you get a degree, it is a starting place. You’ve been given this gift of an education. It doesn’t end when you walk across the stage. It doesn’t mean you’ll never learn again or never read another book again. It’s a beginning.”

Gardner-Webb – The Magazine: “I know that you ran track and field at GWU. Did that dedication to training and discipline on the field help you in writing?”

Dr. Ron Rash: “That was very important. In many circles I was known more as a runner than I was a writer. I felt I always wanted to do one thing very well

and for a while that was track. I eventually channeled that energy (that I was putting into running) into writing. I think that there are so many similarities. In track there are a lot of mornings that you have to get up and get out and work on your own. You have to be self-motivated. That kind of discipline, day in and day out, challenging yourself to practice, was good training for my approach to writing.”

Gardner-Webb – The Magazine: “Your father taught at Gardner-Webb for a number of years and your mother went to school here. So in many ways, GWU was your backyard and Boiling Springs was your playground. How did growing up in this area influence your writing; and how is it these works are so well received beyond the southern borders?”

Dr. Ron Rash: “Eudora Welty said that ‘One place understood helps us understand all other places better.’ So in a sense if I write well enough about Cleveland County or write well enough about the mountains, it’s going to connect with people in other areas. Actually “Serena” (my latest work) is being translated into Korean, Chinese, Dutch and French. So obviously there is some kind of universal connection with my work beyond the rural setting.”

Gardner-Webb – The Magazine: “When you are not teaching you find yourself traveling quite extensively speaking to universities and seminars, working book promotions and autograph signings. During this chaos, how do you find the time to write?”

Dr. Ron Rash: “When I’m on the road, one thing that I really make myself do every morning is write. Sometimes it’s not easy; sometimes I’d rather poke my eyes out with pencils than to write; but I make myself do it. Writers must have the discipline to do it everyday; that’s what I tell my students and anybody who really wants to write.”

Very often in my early drafts I’ll use a pencil and legal pad –sometimes it looks too good too quick on a computer. I like to be able to write and mark out things on paper. It looks sloppy and that’s a reminder to me that it is.”

* Dr. Ron Rash currently serves as Parris Distinguished professor in Appalachian Cultural Studies at Western Carolina University, located in Cullowhee, N.C.

Read more about Dr. Ron Rash on page 8.

EXPLORATION OF KNOWLEDGE

GWU Student Earns National Honors and Opportunities for Biblical Study

By Paul Foster

If recent developments are any indication, Jennifer Cheek is well on her way to becoming an important educator of God's word. Cheek, who graduated from Gardner-Webb last spring with a major in religious studies and a concentration in biblical languages and literature, was one of only seven students from across the nation to have their undergraduate research and creative work selected for publication in the Recorder. The Recorder is a journal published by Alpha Chi. "I can now say I am published, which is huge for someone wanting to go into academia," said Cheek.

"This is a very big deal," said Dr. June Hobbs, chair and professor of the Gardner-Webb department of English and a faculty sponsor for the North Carolina Zeta chapter of Alpha Chi. Alpha Chi is a national collegiate honor society. In order to qualify for membership, students must have a GPA that places them in the top 10 percent of their class.

Cheek, from Hamptonville, N.C., had her scholarly article "The Influence of Zoroastrianism on Christian Eschatology" featured in the Recorder's spring 2009 edition. The idea for the project on Zoroastrianism Eschatology and Christianity came while Cheek was taking an honors death and dying seminar with Hobbs. The religion of Zoroastrianism is the ancient religion of Persia. The prophet Zarathustra, who was one of the first monotheists in human history, founded it almost 3500 years ago. Today, it is

almost an extinct religion. But the religion lives through other major religions of the world such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity. Zoroastrianism's concepts include conflict between good and evil, judgment day, resurrection of the dead, and heaven and hell.

"My premise in the paper is that Jewish eschatology (study of end times) was affected by the Zoroastrian concept of paradise while the Jewish people were in exile in Babylonia," said Cheek. Cheek says the Zoroastrian concept influenced the eschatology of Second Temple Judaism after the exile, which then influenced early Christian concepts of the afterlife. "I love the Old Testament and the intersection between Jewish and Christian beliefs, so this research was fun," said Cheek.

Cheek will continue her education at Harvard's School of Divinity. The decision to go with Harvard took some thinking because she also had opportunities to attend Emory's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Ga., and Duke University's Graduate program in Durham, N.C. Regardless of what else the future holds for Cheek, she says her Gardner-Webb experience was one of the most valuable and cultivating periods of her life. "I believe the School (GWU) has played a huge part in forming me into a compassionate and thoughtful person of faith." One of many things that stood out to Cheek about the University was the religious studies and philosophy department. "We have some really knowledgeable people in the department that could probably be teaching at bigger, research-based schools if they wanted to. However, they chose to be at Gardner-Webb because they care about teaching and the growth of their students," said Cheek. She was especially thankful to several professors who had been mentors to her. One of those was Dr. Paula Qualls, associate professor of religion. "Basically, I want to be Dr. Paula Qualls when I grow up. If I can be half as intelligent and graceful as she is, I will be happy," said Cheek.

It was evident to Qualls, after reviewing one of Cheek's first class papers, that she had gifts in writing and teaching. As her thesis advisor, Qualls saw that Cheek was very disciplined, committed, had a strong work-ethic, and was gifted in research. "She is a natural! She has taught several class sessions for me as she completed her ministry practicum. She is able to teach Hebrew students and handle the intricate details of the Hebrew language with ease," said Qualls.

Cheek says once she earns her Ph.D. she hopes to become a professor of Old Testament and Hebrew. "It is very rewarding when a student tells you that their professional goals are to move into the field that you live and love. It is the highest complement," said Qualls.



MADE IN CHINA

Brad Lail Furthered his Skills as a Potter in the Far East

by Jamie Newton

Gardner-Webb student, Brad Lail, spent a semester studying pottery in China at the Jingdezhen Ceramics Institute last fall.

"It was such a great experience," said Lail. "In China, pottery is a very big part of their culture. (In China) People revere artists much like Americans look-up to doctors. Being a potter in China is a natural part of life."

"While I was there I took classes in Mandarin, Chinese Art History and spent about six hours a day in the studio working on my pottery. I mostly worked with porcelain, which was a very new experience for me. At first it was very frustrating, I had to forget everything I knew about working with stoneware. After about two months of constant throwing I began to get the hang of it. I made teapots, cups, vases, plates, bowls and large vessels. About half of these broke during the drying process, but the rest I sold and gave the money back to the community we were living in."

"We worked with various artists both from China and other countries. Many of them didn't speak English, which made communicating a bit of a challenge. All of the potters were incredible and very humble. Most just saw their pottery as functional, not as art, which is quite different than in the United States."

Lail's first exposure to pottery was in eighth grade when his dad signed their family up for a pottery class.

"At first I was not good at throwing on the wheel, and I hated it," said Lail. "Dad really took to it and the next thing you know, he bought a kiln and wheel to put in the building behind our house."

With encouragement from his father, Lail eventually developed a love for creating clay. "In my junior year in high school I quit playing tennis and began to focus most of my time developing my skills as a potter,"

Lail said.

Lail has continued his passion for pottery as a 3D art major at GWU. "There is nobody more knowledgeable than Doug Knotts. He's a genius. When I came to Gardner-Webb, I was really close-minded and I didn't want to push myself to make new shapes. The professors here pushed me

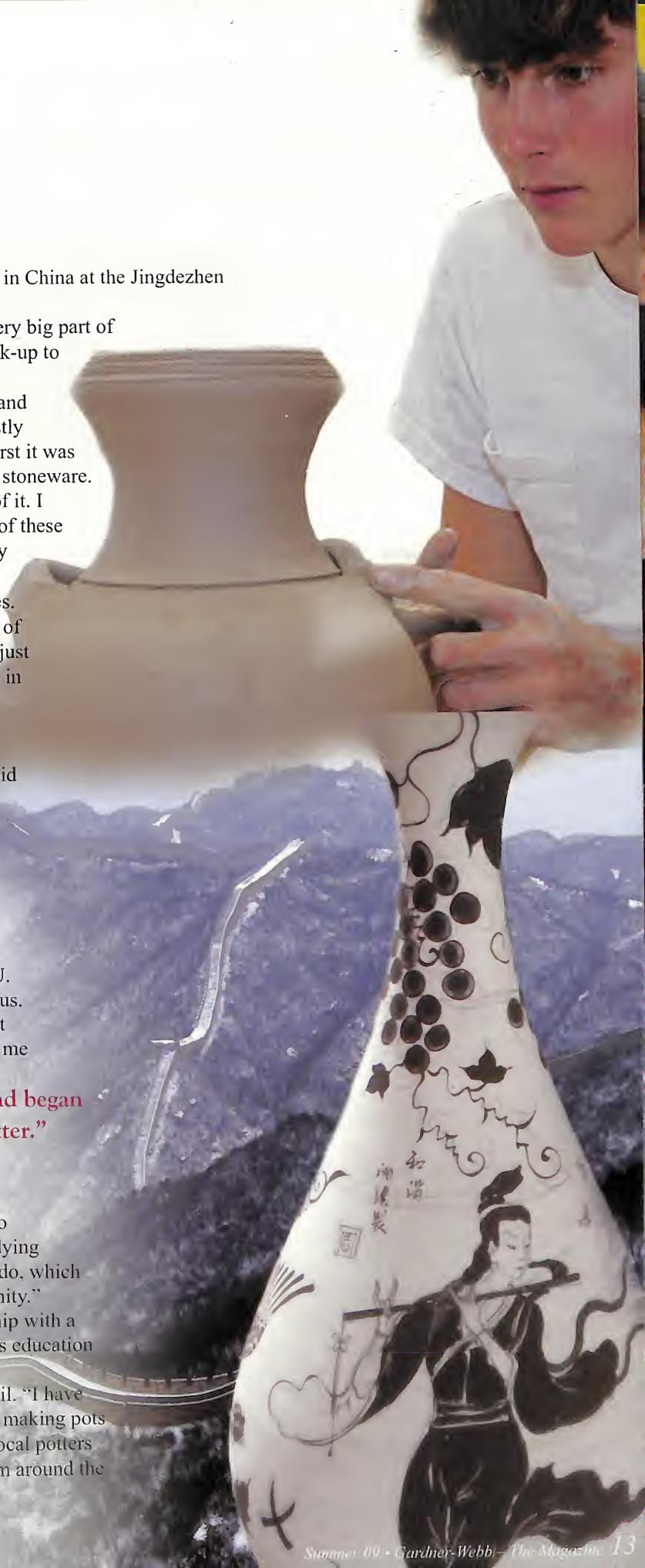
"In my junior year in high school I quit playing tennis and began to focus most of my time developing my skills as a potter."

out of my comfort zone," said Lail.

GWU ceramics Professor Doug Knotts said, "Brad has opened up to understanding different approaches to art and to pottery. Through studying abroad he is doing exactly what we hope all students in all fields will do, which is find opportunities to learn, grow and apply yourself to that opportunity."

After graduation in May of 2010, Lail hopes to find an apprenticeship with a North Carolina potter for one or two years and then either continue his education with graduate school or become a studio potter.

"Many potters have influenced my work in different ways," said Lail. "I have made so many connections, and have had more opportunities through making pots than I would have ever imagined. I have learned so much from both local potters and from potters around the world. To have something influenced from around the world is invaluable."



Student Profiles

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE CHILD AT A TIME

GWU Graduate Student Earns Teacher of the Year Honor

By Lauren Quesenberry

Craig Steszewski, fourth grade teacher at Liberty Drive Elementary School in Thomasville, N.C., attributes his designation as the 2008-2009 Thomasville City Schools Teacher of the Year to his students. "Every unpredictable day in the life of a teacher is fun and rewarding," says Steszewski. "It's the one chance where you get to be a big kid yourself." Steszewski enjoys a high-energy classroom where students are actively engaged in learning while having fun.

Steszewski grew up in the suburbs of Henrietta, just outside Rochester, N.Y., with his mother, father, and sister. After his fun and educational experience in "Ms. Pratt's" third grade classroom, Steszewski knew he wanted to be a teacher. He states, "I knew I wanted to do something with kids."

Growing up, Steszewski had a lot of family involvement. He states, "My parents definitely played a big part in my academic success." He fondly remembers his grandmother, who "did everything with a smile. She was polite and proper and always helped anyone who was in need."

As his role model, Steszewski tries to emulate his grandmother's giving and passionate spirit in the classroom. He wants to not only teach his students how to love and respect each other, but also to show them.

Steszewski graduated from Endicott College in Beverly, Mass., in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and a focus in elementary education. Fall 2008 marked Steszewski's first semester at Gardner-Webb. After hearing about the program from the assistant principal at the elementary school where he teaches, Steszewski knew it was time for him to go back to school. With a long-term dream, Steszewski is pursuing a graduate degree in school administration at Gardner-Webb's Davidson Center in Lexington, N.C.



Craig Steszewski working with a student

BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY

GWU Business Class Partners with Habitat for Humanity

by Jamie Newton

"A class like this allows students to take what their textbooks have taught them and use it in the real world to help meet the needs in our community," said Sarah Seagroves, senior Gardner-Webb University

student. "The point is for students to develop their project management skills by learning how to carry out a project from conception to completion."

Seven senior business students had the opportunity to participate in a class that impacted their education. Business Administration 498 (Practical Experience in Business) was offered for the first time in the spring 2009 semester.

Dr. Tom Meaders, professor of business was the faculty advisor for the class. "The students from previous semesters thought that Gardner-Webb University needed a



Business students work on Habitat House



Marissa Huskey at her new home

class that epitomized the GWU motto, 'For God and For Humanity'. I incorporated their vision into my strategic management class as a project. They then researched the feasibility of the idea, surveyed the interest of students and created an outline for the class itself. They presented the idea of the class to the business faculty and it was approved."

The basis for the class is that business students would choose a service-learning project through which they could utilize the skills they had learned in the classroom and bring those into the real world.

The class decided to partner with Habitat for Humanity to complete cosmetic repair work on a house in Shelby, N.C.

"The project was completely student led. We chose the project, we raised awareness and support, we made the business plan and actually carried out the renovations," said Chris Farthing, the student accountant for the project.

For the first month the students chose the Habitat House and began raising awareness and funds for the project by sending out letters to local businesses and making presentations to the business faculty at GWU and to the Cleveland County Home Owners Association.

"There is a little bit for everyone in a project like this. People only need to be willing to donate their time," said Seagroves, who did public relations and

fundraising for the project. "I think that it is very important that GWU places such an emphasis on service learning."

The class members volunteered many of their nights and weekends to work on the renovations of the house.

"We cleaned, painted, replaced fixtures, did some minor repair work and installed carpet in the house," said Farthing. "It always feels so good to help someone in need."

Because there were only seven students to complete a large project, the class members recruited friends and family members to help out with the work on the house.

"A project like this teaches you to communicate with your team members and give back to your community. There is such a satisfying feeling to put both academic and physical work into helping others and your community," said Ben Pewitt, a student in the class.

Because there has been such a positive reaction to the class, the business faculty hopes to continue this class for many years to come.

"This is such an incredible opportunity for the students of GWU and helps them to develop their business skills and gives them compassion for others who may be less fortunate," said Meaders.

"In the future, we would love to see the enrollment for the class grow. The ideal number would be about 20 to 25 students

so that we can take on a larger project. We may open it up to other students not in the business program."

Marissa Huskey and her children moved into the house after the GWU class finished the renovations.

"I am so thankful for these students," said Huskey. "I think it is wonderful that they are helping out the community. We are very grateful."

WITNESS TO HISTORY

Nine GWU Students Experience Lifetime Opportunity at the Inauguration of Barack Obama

by Jamie Newton

On Jan. 20, 2009, nine students and one professor from Gardner-Webb University were able to experience history. They joined the thousands of other American citizens who traveled hundreds of miles to watch the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Dr. Michael Kuchinsky, professor of political science at GWU led the trip. "It was an honor to watch our students experience something so unique and historical of American public life," said Kuchinsky. "There is something profoundly important and unique that we change governments peacefully. Watching the students feel such pride in their country and having that collective and complete sense of citizenship with fellow Americans, was an

Continued on next page



"I am so thankful for these students."



experience that I will never forget."

During the two-week trip, the students attended a conference "The Presidency and the Media," which was hosted by The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. The four-part series of academic conferences followed the track of the election process.

"I learned a lot about how politics and the media influence each other," said Jordan Tubbs, a communications studies major who went on the trip. "It really showed us how they depend on each other and how they can have a positive or negative impact on each other."

Amy Elliot, a senior communications studies major, also learned a lot at the conference. "It was such a great experience. Every morning we would have speakers talking about various aspects of journalism, especially how it relates to politics. After

breaking into small groups to discuss what we had learned in the sessions, we went on various site visits including National Public Radio, the Embassy of Bahrain, the American Civil Liberties Union and many of the national monuments."

For five hours, Kuchinsky and the students braved the bitter cold, waiting in line to watch the inauguration ceremony.

"It was amazing to hear how the crowd would respond together. When someone would talk, there was a deafening silence. When they sang the National Anthem you couldn't help but feel a sense of pride regardless of whether you were a republican or a democrat," said Kuchinsky. "It is very neat to be able to say that Gardner-Webb University was there. It is quite exciting that our students represented our school in this way."

"Being there and experiencing the inauguration was amazing," said Tubbs. "My favorite part was listening to Obama speak. You could hear his voice echoing all over speaking to the millions of people who were listening to their new leader."

Kuchinsky hopes that the trip will have a lasting impact on the lives of the students.



"It is my hope that this experience will show the students that Washington D.C. is a place to intern and work. The students were able to meet with alumni of GWU who are currently living and working in Washington. I hope that maybe these connections might lead to interns working with alumni in the future," said Kuchinsky. "One of the things that the students came away with is that every individual is in D.C. for a purpose; they want to change something. They want to do something more than just make money; they want to make a difference."

One such student who is pursuing a career in Washington D.C. is Lanny Newton. "I have a 10-week internship set up through the Washington Center. After I complete those 10 weeks, I hope to have a job relating to foreign policy. During the trip I learned a lot of differing views and how they relate to the political process, which definitely will aid me in my future career."

The nine students who were able to go on the trip are very grateful to Gardner-Webb University for making the trip possible.

"We are all so thankful for the University giving us this opportunity. They made this trip possible by financing the trip, arranging everything for our stay. I think I can speak for us all that this trip is not something that we will soon forget," said Tubbs.



Jordan Tubbs outside the Whitehouse

A HOME RUN FOR GWU BASEBALL

Major Gift Marks Campaign for John Henry Moss Stadium

This spring GWU announced a major gift from baseball legend John Henry Moss. This announcement marked the beginning of a fundraising campaign for the new baseball stadium. John Henry Moss Stadium will be built on the Gardner-Webb University campus in the same location as its current baseball playing field.

Moss, a native of nearby Kings Mountain, N.C., has been a driving force in the sport of baseball during his lifetime, including 50 years as president of the popular South Atlantic League. With Moss' keen eye for promotion, the South Atlantic League grew from an eight-team league in western North Carolina to a 16-team circuit that had played in 43 cities and eight states by 2007. Known for affordable, quality, family entertainment, the South Atlantic League is widely regarded as the model of success in baseball circles. Moss, who was honored by the league with a lifetime contract in 1990, retired following the 2007 season. He became the youngest person elected president of a professional baseball league with the Western Carolina League in 1948.

Through the years, Moss has accumulated countless regional and national awards and recognitions. Among his achievements are his selection into five Halls of Fame, including the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, the North Carolina American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame, the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame, and the Cleveland County Sports Hall of Fame. He was named as the King of Baseball at the "Baseball Winter Meetings" in Los Angeles in 1990. He also was an inaugural member of the South Atlantic League Hall of Fame.

Under current Head Coach Rusty Stroupe, the Gardner-Webb Runnin' Bulldogs have seen four players drafted since 2003 and two more sign professional contracts, including 43rd round draft pick Adam Bullard (Rome, A, Atlanta Braves) last summer. Bullard, Zach Ward (New Britain, AA, Twins) and Blake Lalli (Tennessee, AA, Cubs) are still active in their clubs' respective minor league systems.

"This has been a wonderful experience with Mr. Moss," said Woody Fish, Gardner-Webb's associate vice president of Development and Alumni Relations. "He is by far one of the most gifted and innovative marketing geniuses around. He is also an example of what young people can accomplish in life, as he came from a small town to become 'The Grand Gentleman of the Game of Baseball.'"



GWU President, Frank Bonner, John Henry Moss and head baseball coach Rusty Stroupe

The Shelby, N.C., architectural firm of Holland and Hamrick is handling the design of John Henry Moss Stadium. Fundraising is on-going for this project and naming opportunities are still available in connection to the stadium by calling Woody Fish at 704-406-4254.



The naming of the John Henry Moss Stadium is an exciting first step in the construction of the new Gardner-Webb baseball facilities. Additional naming opportunities are still available to help finish this important project. Gifts as low as \$250 will purchase an engraved brick and gifts of \$1000 will purchase a named seat. Larger gifts are also encouraged, and may be used to name a press box, dug out, or other available facility structures. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, or for more information, please contact Woody Fish or Katie Fowler at 704-406-3862.



Future John Henry Moss Stadium rendering

SHOOTING FOR EXCELLENCE

Basketball Senior Aaron Linn Receives Academic Honors

By Jamie Newton

“These awards are a big honor,” said Aaron Linn. “I am really fortunate and thankful to my parents, teammates and coaches. They were always there encouraging me through all the years of hard work.”

Linn became the first men’s basketball player from Gardner-Webb University to be named to the prestigious ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American First Team. In addition, he was also named Big South Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

These awards are proof of Linn’s hard work both on and off the court. Academically, he carries a 4.0 perfect grade point average in his chosen major of finance. Throughout his GWU basketball career he averaged 13.6 points, 3.2 assists, 4.5 rebounds and 1.7 steals per game and for his senior season averaged a team-high of 14.9 point per game.

GWU head coach Rick Scruggs is very proud of Linn. “This is a tremendous honor for Aaron, and is what we strive for in our student athletes. His hard work on the court is appreciated and has been outstanding, but his hard work and performance in the classroom is something we are most proud of. Aaron is destined to have a bright future.”

Linn began playing basketball at the age of 5. Although he also played other sports while growing up, there was something about basketball that just stuck with him. “It was something that I worked on by myself,” said Linn. “All you need is a basketball, a hoop and determination.”

That determination has helped Linn juggle a hectic schedule of balancing

basketball and his studies. “I am very busy, all the time,” said Linn. “It doesn’t always feel like I have it all under control, but I get in the habit of going to class, going to practice and then doing my homework. I only have a few hours each night to study, so I am forced to use my time wisely.”

“After I graduate in December, I hope to have a chance to play basketball overseas.



Aaron Linn

If not, I will look for a job in the finance field,” said Linn. “When I leave, I will miss my teammates the most. I have spent the last two years in a tight community with these guys; they are like family to me.”

Chuck Burch, vice president for Athletics said, “Aaron is the consummate student-athlete. In addition to his obvious accomplishments academically and athletically, Aaron also personifies the kind of Christian testimony that has become synonymous with Gardner-Webb University. These attributes, combined with an outstanding work ethic and

competitive spirit, have made him an invaluable member of our basketball team the past two seasons. The recent recognition that Aaron Linn has received from both ESPN and the Big South Conference are a testament to his hard work on the basketball court and in the classroom.”

GWU SWIM TEAM ACHIEVES NATIONAL ACADEMIC HONORS

The Gardner-Webb swimming program, under head coach Mike Simpson, topped the list of Division-I Academic All-American for fall 2008 in both men’s and women’s swimming by recording the highest cumulative grade point averages (GPAs) amongst Division-I swim programs from around the country. The Lady Bulldog swimmers combined for a 3.62 cumulative GPA, while the men finished with a 3.33.

The Lady Bulldogs finished with a full tenth of a point higher than second place finisher Eastern Michigan (3.5). Other schools in the top-10 included: Duke (3.49), Vanderbilt (3.46), George Washington (3.43), and Georgetown (3.41).

The men’s program beat out Georgetown for the top spot. Georgetown finished with a 3.32, while Harvard was right behind both schools with a 3.30. Schools that rounded out the top-10 on the men’s side include Brown (3.29), Dartmouth (3.27), Lafayette (3.27), Ohio State (3.25), University of New Orleans (3.24), Stanford (3.21), and Louisville (3.21).

Coach Simpson has always been a strong advocate and supporter for academic success and has consistently found ways to foster achievement in the pool and in the classroom.



GARDNER-WEBB

RUNNIN' BULLDOGS

2009 Football Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
September 5th	Mars Hill College	Boiling Springs, NC	6:00 p.m.
September 12th	Western Carolina	Cullowhee, NC	7:00 p.m.
September 19th	North Carolina State	Raleigh, NC	6:00 p.m.
September 26th	OPEN		
October 3rd	Virginia Military Institute	Lexington, VA	1:00 p.m.
October 10th	Buffalo	Buffalo, NY	TBA
October 17th (<i>Family Weekend</i>)	Charleston Southern	Boiling Springs, NC	6:00 p.m.
October 24th	Southern Virginia	Boiling Springs, NC	6:00 p.m.
October 31st (<i>Homecoming</i>)	Stony Brook	Boiling Springs, NC	1:30 p.m.
November 7th	Coastal Carolina	Conway, SC	7:00 p.m.
November 14th	Liberty	Boiling Springs, NC	1:30 p.m.
November 21st	Presbyterian	Clinton, SC	1:00 p.m.

GWU BASEBALL PLAYER HITS ACADEMIC GRAND SLAM

Gardner-Webb baseball standout Jonathan Ahearn was awarded the annual Bob McCloskey Insurance Big South Conference Graduate Fellowship this spring and was named Big South Scholar-Athlete of the year.

The fellowship, given annually, awards the top male and female student-athlete each year. The League established the Big South Conference Graduate Fellowship Program in the fall of 2005 as a means of recognizing the academic excellence of Big South Conference student-athletes who intend to pursue postgraduate studies upon graduation from a Big South Conference institution.

A 3.907 GPA student with a major in health and wellness, Ahearn graduated Summa Cum Laude in December 2008, and is currently enrolled in Gardner-Webb's Godbold School of Business. He was a three-time Academic All-Conference nominee in the Atlantic Sun Conference prior to this season, and has been a Dean's List member each semester at GWU.

Ahearn was nominated by the Health and Wellness Club to take the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam, is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Cleveland County American Red Cross, is a member of



Jonathan Ahearn

the Alpha Chi Honor Society, and has volunteered with various organizations and charities during his collegiate career, including the Cleveland Physical Therapy Associates, American Red Cross, and local elementary schools. Ahearn is applying to attend physical therapy school at the Medical University of South Carolina, the University of South Carolina and the University of North Carolina.

Ahearn is the second GWU student-athlete to earn a graduate fellowship since 2007. Former track & field standout Katherine Warden was awarded a graduate

fellowship by the Atlantic Sun Conference in 2007, and is currently in graduate school at Boston University's School of Divinity.

Gardner-Webb senior Ahearn was also one of three Gardner-Webb seniors named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District III team. Justin Loyd and Brock Miller were named as well, with Ahearn earning first-team honors.

Gardner-Webb is the only college baseball program in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina or Georgia with more than two players on the All-District III team. The players were nominated and voted on by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

GOLF STANDOUT EARDS CONFERENCE HONORS FOR CLASSROOM SUCCESS

Katie Garahan was named Big South Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year for women's golf, in addition to garnering Academic All-Conference accolades for the 2009 season. During her career, the senior from Rock Hill, S.C., was named to the Atlantic Sun All-Academic Team on two occasions, earned a spot on the All-American Scholar Team announced by the National Golf Coaches' Association and was named to the Atlantic Sun All-Freshmen team in 2005-06.

INSPIRED LIVING

'77 Alumnus Embraces his Calling as a Pastor

By Meredith White

Dr. Robert Setzer, Jr. '77 looks back to Gardner-Webb as building the foundation for his ministry. Setzer has found his niche as a pastor, counselor, moderator, author and teacher.

The journey started when this Greensboro, N.C., native entered Gardner-Webb as a "cocky preacher boy." "I thought I knew it all," Setzer said. "My religion professors at Gardner-Webb taught me a measure of humility and that there is so much more to know about God and the Bible than I ever imagined." Setzer enjoyed the size of Gardner-Webb so he could be in small classes and have the opportunity to meet with professors one-on-one. GWU professors, including Dr. John Drayer and Dr. Vann Murrell, taught Setzer that loving God with "the mind is as important as loving God with the heart."



Upon graduation, Setzer went to The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he graduated in 1980 with his Master of Divinity degree. In 1992, he earned his Doctorate of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, N.J. "My education at Gardner-Webb was first rate," Setzer said. "I felt like I had been prepared for seminary at Southern." During college, Setzer began working as a pastor. He has served at churches in Kentucky, Virginia and Georgia.

"A pastor's life combines a life of reflection and action," Setzer said. "You aren't sequestered, but involved. Also pastors are the only people who have an opportunity to be in contact with people in all stages of life from births to weddings to funerals." In addition to serving as a pastor, Setzer has served as the moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"Gardner-Webb inspired me to be the best I could be."

He has also had several of his writings published including his own book, "Encounters with the Living Christ: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John." This book is a series of devotional meditations on key chapters and movements in the Gospel of John. It includes reflection and discussion questions at the end of each chapter to facilitate small group study.

"I have loved the Gospel of John since I was a boy," Setzer said. "In it, the risen Christ speaks to the reader in an intimate, personal way, disclosing the unquenchable love in the heart of God." Setzer also teaches as an adjunct professor of Christianity at Mercer University. His wife, Mary (Bambi) Wilson Setzer also attended Gardner-Webb. She is a portrait artist, photographer and graphic designer. They have one daughter, Whitney Owen, a government consultant in northern Virginia.

Setzer was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Graduates at Gardner-Webb University in 2006. "Gardner-Webb inspired me to be the best I could be in the hope of making a difference in the world," Setzer said. "Gardner-Webb has done that for countless others and that, in my view, is the Webb's greatest legacy."



HISTORY IN MOTION

Over 38 Members of Sonja Jones' Family Have Been Affiliated With GWU

By Jamie Newton

Sonja Jones, a 1959 graduate of Gardner-Webb University has a rich connection with GWU. In fact, she is related to many people in Gardner-Webb University's history.

Her grandfather, J.D. Huggins, was the first principal of Boiling Springs High School and later the first dean of Gardner-Webb Junior College. His house stood where Dover Library stands today, and Jones remembers spending a lot of her childhood there. Her parents also met while attending GWU. She, as well as all five of her siblings attended GWU, in addition to both of her own children. Over the years more than 38 members of her family have attended, been employed or been affiliated with Gardner-Webb at some time.

When Jones was deciding on a college, Gardner-Webb was an easy choice. "I never considered going anywhere else other than Gardner-Webb. There is a love of Gardner-Webb in my family and it has been such a huge part of our lives," said Jones. "It was close to home, offered good academics, had a great liberal arts program and since it was a junior college at the time, it offered the great base that I needed to go on to another school."

Jones greatly enjoyed her time at GWU. "I especially remember the special events such as Homecoming, May Days and my graduation; I treasure those memories," said Jones. "There were always some of my family members on campus and I also made lasting friendships during my time at Gardner-Webb."

Jones graduated with an Associate of Arts Degree and then went on to Appalachian State, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Development.

After graduation, she got married and began teaching at Boiling Springs Elementary. She taught various grades throughout her 32 years at the school. "I absolutely love working with children," said Jones. "Teaching the first grade was my favorite because there is no greater reward than watching a child open a book and read for the first time."

Today, Jones assists with volunteers at Cleveland Regional Medical Center where she helps organize hospital tours for the local elementary schools. She also volunteers with other organizations and committees as well.

In the fall of 2009, Jones was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Graduates at GWU.

"To me, Gardner-Webb University is a stand-out university. It has excellent faculty, a great president and an absolutely gorgeous campus. I personally believe that the town of Boiling Springs complements GWU and that GWU complements the town of Boiling Springs. Gardner-Webb University is like a big family; the professors care about the students and it has a loving, positive Christian atmosphere, which I believe makes it a great university. Most of the best memories that my husband and I have are in association with the students, the faculty and the people of Gardner-Webb University," said Jones.



EMBRACING LIFE'S STRESS

Wood Ministers to Frazzled Women Across Nation

By Jamie Newton

Cindi Wood grew up in Kings Mountain, N.C. From a very early age, Wood had very strong impressions of Gardner-Webb University. The president of the college at the time, Eugene Poston, was a family friend who regularly came over for dinner and played golf with her father. She also attended summer camps every year at the College. When she enrolled in 1972 at GW, she knew that was where she was supposed to be. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Intermediate Education with a minor in music.

"My years at Gardner-Webb provided stability and direction and placed me where I was supposed to be in teaching. Whether that was teaching middle school children or women, it laid the foundation for where I am today. As educators we must show the students that we care about them and that we believe that they can succeed in the world. My professors at Gardner-Webb did exactly that," said Wood.

After graduating, she began teaching middle school students. "I loved working with that age group. I am totally crazy and so are they, so it was a good fit," said Wood. While teaching middle school, she began to realize that many of the parents of her students were extremely stressed out. She began teaching stress management seminars to parents. That was when she became interested in working with adults.



years, Wood has ministered to women through the Frazzled Female ministry by way of books, Bible studies, radio broadcasts, articles in magazines, women's conferences and other various speaking engagements. Her works include "I've Used All My Sick Days – Now I'll Have To Call In Dead," "The Frazzled Female," "The Frazzled Female Bible Study," "Victoriously Frazzled Bible Study," "Too Blessed For This Mess" and "The Frazzled Female Journal."

She defines the frazzled female as a woman who is overscheduled, overworked and under slept. According to her research this includes over 60 million women in the United States.

"The goal of my ministry is not to simply get rid of the stress in the lives of women, it is to bring those women to Jesus and let Him give them joy and grace in the middle of all the stress. A relationship with Jesus Christ is the answer to all of life's problems. He doesn't make the stress go away, but He helps carry the burden," said Wood. She now shares the gospel with women at over 40 conferences a year across the United States.

"I believe that God is pursuing a love relationship with each of His children, and that He has specific designs for each of us as we go about our daily living. My passion is to help women to discover that a growing intimacy with Jesus Christ is the key to dealing with all areas of life . . . including the daily stress that often gets the best of us," said Wood.

For more information about Cindi Wood visit www.frazzledfemale.com.



Cindi Wood

Wood then began her own business and went into organizations and led stress management seminars and team building exercises. With starting her own business and being both a wife and a mother of two, Wood began to feel the stress on her own life. She realized that she needed to give all of her small, daily activities to the Lord, and when she did, He helped her manage the stress load. It was during this time that the phrase "frazzled female" began to take hold in her mind, and Wood felt that the Lord was calling her to minister to stressed-out women.

For over 14



WEARING HER GAME FACE

Kelli Bartik '03 Living the Dream of a Sports Anchor

"Some of my first memories were watching game film with my dad. I always loved the game of football; I always loved sports and knew that I wanted to be involved in sports somehow when I grew up," says Kelli Bartik '03, sports anchor for Fox Charlotte.

Bartik moved around a lot growing up. Her father was a football coach in places like Montana, Georgia and Oklahoma. But Bartik says that no matter where they traveled there was always one place that felt like home - the football field. "We never had babysitters growing up; we just went to the practice field," she said. "There was no better place to be."

That exposure to football early in her life helped establish a love for sports that has lasted throughout her entire life and eventually impacted her career choice. "Being around this atmosphere is so much fun and doesn't seem like work most of the time."

In many ways, Bartik says she has Gardner-Webb to thank for where she is now. "I did an internship at Fox Charlotte when I was at Gardner-Webb. I had the chance to work with reporters and took advantage of all of the opportunities I could," noted Bartik. "Internships allow you to make connections, make an impact and make an impression."

Upon graduation, Bartik was offered a job at a TV station in Billings, Mont., where she worked as a news and sports reporter. In 2004, a job opened up at Fox Charlotte working the assignment desk (where Bartik says she worked the hardest job in the newsroom). Later she got a call that changed her life. "One day a reporter was out sick and someone said 'Kelli can do it.' It was a live shot and I had only done two of those in my life (and they were very bad). But I went out there and nailed it. Every chance I got I jumped on it," she said. "You have to step outside of your comfort zone and take chances. After a few months, I started filling in as a news reporter and anchored on Saturdays. Then I became a full-time reporter, and when the sports position opened up, I went after it and got it."

Bartik now finds herself covering the NFL, NBA and NASCAR in a major TV market and spends her days and nights researching, writing and anchoring sports news for audiences in the Carolinas. She also serves as co-host for a 30-minute sports-talk show each Sunday night called "Got Game."

Bartik has also interviewed major sports figures including: Michael Jordan, Terry Bradshaw, Tiger Woods, Joe Montana and numerous Carolina Panther players.

Sports coverage is mostly a male-dominated media, but that does not discourage Bartik, in fact she thrives on the challenge. "I always wanted to do something like this, but never thought I'd be doing sideline reporting for Fox during an NFL game," said Bartik. "That is something I'll never forget."

Bartik has also been honored by The Radio-Television News Directors Association, for outstanding achievements in electronic journalism. She is actively involved with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Charlotte and dedicates her spare time to mentoring students who desire a career in broadcasting.







Scenic Impressions

Pretty In Pink

In future issues of Gardner-Webb -The Magazine, this section will be devoted to the beauty of our campus. Landscapes, people, architecture, academics and athletics will all be featured in *Scenic Impressions*. The photos we spotlight here are taken by Gardner-Webb students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of The University. If you have a photo to submit for consideration, please contact Noel T. Manning, II at ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu for image specification requirements.

“There is a way that nature speaks, that land speaks. Most of the time we are simply not patient enough, quiet enough, to pay attention to the story.”

- Linda Hogan

Photo by Mark Houser, Photo Editor



Class Acts

1930s

ALUMNUS PASSING *ROWELL LANE '34 A.A.*

passed away at the Masonic and Eastern Star Home on Dec. 7, 2008. He graduated from Sunshine High School. After Gardner-Webb, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Arts degree from Wake Forest University and later a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as an active-duty officer in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and retired a Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Air Force Reserve. Lane served several secondary education posts in North Carolina including Principal of Engelhard, Marion, Kings Mountain, and Middleburg Schools retiring from State Education. As a southern Baptist minister, he served at Rose Bay, Middleburg, and Raleigh Road. He retired as Pastor Emeritus from Raleigh Road. He served as Grand Chaplain and Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of N.C.

1940s

ALUMNUS PASSING *JOHN PHILIP LEE '47 A.A.*

died Feb. 18, 2009 at his home. Lee served in the U.S. Army from 1950 - 1952. He spent the better part of his career with the North Carolina Utilities Commission, Transportation Division and retired after 16 years of service with the railroad. John is survived by his wife, Alton, and many loving family members.

ALUMNUS PASSING *ROBERT NEILL '49 A.A.*

died Feb. 27, 2009 at his home. He began his career in real estate in 1961 with Lat Purser and Associates where he later became vice chairman. In 1980, he started his own business, Bob Neill & Associates

where he retired in 2004. He was a charter member and elder of New Life Church in Charlotte, N.C. He is survived by his wife Betty E. Neill '50, and several loving family and friends.

1950s

ALUMNUS PASSING *WARREN GEROLD SMITH, Sr. '50 A.A.*

died on Dec. 4, 2008 at Carolinas Medical Center-Union. He was a veteran of World War II having served in the Signal Corps of the U.S. Army from 1942-1945 in the China-Burma-India Theatre. He obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Western Carolina University. He served as principal and teacher for South Roberson School and later as supervisor, interim superintendent, director of ESEA and Chapter I Programs for Anson County, N.C.

1960s

B. FRANK JAMES '65 A.A.

was recently appointed to the Medical University of South Carolina Board of Visitors. Members are nominated by the trustees of the University and serve as ambassadors in their respective regions. James was appointed by former U.S. Representative Robin Tallon. He is currently senior vice president and city executive for BB&T.

1970s

ALUMNUS PASSING *HENRY "HANK" LONG HARRISON '76*

died on Nov. 16, 2008. After Gardner-Webb, Hank graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary. He is survived by sister Marie, brother Jerry, and very close friend, Carol.

ALUMNUS PASSING

RICKY GERALD HOWELL '76 B.A.

died on Feb. 28, 2009 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville, N.C. Howell began his career in education at Mill Spring Elementary School and later became principal of Mill Spring Accelerated School until it closed. He then became assistant principal at Polk Central School and finally principal at Sunny View Elementary School where he served until his recent retirement. He is survived by his mother, wife, two sons, one brother, one sister, and several nieces and nephews.

1980s

RAMON MARK KING '85 B.A.

was recently named executive minister at Centenary United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. Centenary is one of the largest United Methodist congregations in the Southeast. King and his wife, Pat, reside in Winston-Salem with their three children, Joel, Ashley, and Meredith.

JOHN "EDDY" McGEE '86 B.S.

was recently named the 2008 Business Leader of the Year by the King Chamber of Commerce. He is executive director of the Stokes County Arts Council and a former pro tennis instructor at Bermuda Run Country Club. He is actively involved at Faith United Methodist Church. E-mail Eddy at stokesarts@mindspring.com.

ROBERT BENNETT HAIRFIELD '87 B.S.

was elected to the Burke County Board of Education in November of 2007, and is currently serving the second year of his four year term.

RICK WASHBURN '78 NOW SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF SHELBY SAVINGS BANK

by Paul Foster

Before he started making loans and helping manage banks, President of Shelby Savings Bank (N.C.), Rick Washburn '78 had a GWU connection that brought him to campus as a child and eventually as a Gardner-Webb student.

Washburn, a native of North Carolina, has 31 years of banking experience in Cleveland County and was promoted to president of Shelby Savings Bank in the spring of '09 after 19 years of service. He started with Shelby Savings as a manager of lending operations and had been leading the bank as vice-president for the last few years.

Since 1998, Shelby Savings has been a member of the Hometrust Bank partnership. Hometrust is based in Asheville, N.C. Shelby Savings, itself, has a nearly 104 year history of serving families and businesses in its community.

As a young man in the late '60s and early '70s, Washburn was a frequent visitor to Gardner-Webb. During that time, his parents (now deceased) worked at GWU. His father, Gordon Washburn was head of security and his mother, Shirley Washburn, served as switchboard operator. "I was fascinated watching her take all those calls. In those days, she used the old-fashioned switchboard system where you took the wires and plugged them into the right socket to connect the call," said Washburn. "Dad would sometimes let me and some friends help park cars at football or basketball games. We actually earned some extra money."

His parents' connection and on campus experiences made Washburn's choice easy when it came time for college. He was going to attend GWU. Washburn majored in business administration with a concentration in accounting. He remembered how Gardner-Webb's Department of Business always worked to make a way for students to do internships with local businesses. "I interned with First Federal Savings and Loan of Shelby. I enjoyed the experience and after college they offered me my first job in the business," said Washburn.

Today, Washburn still makes his way back to campus for events along with his wife Lisa and their daughter, Jenna. Washburn said, "Looking back, I wouldn't have wanted to go to any other school."



"SHE HAD AN IRON WILL"

Martha Mason '58 Dies at 71

Martha Mason '58, Gardner-Webb's first distance learner passed away in May at the age of 71. She battled polio as a child and as a result lived in an iron lung for 61 years. According to David W. Rose, archivist for the March of Dimes Foundation, there is no other documented case of any American living that long in an iron lung.

Mason never let the fact that she was limited physically inhibit her ability to learn. While a student at Gardner-Webb she participated in her class via intercom, which allowed her to communicate with her professors and fellow classmates. She graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1958 at the top of her class and continued her education at Wake Forest University (where she graduated first in her class as well). She wrote the critically acclaimed memoir, "Breath: Life in the Rhythm of an Iron Lung." Mason was also the subject of the award-winning documentary, "Martha in Lattimore" by filmmaker Mary Dalton and appeared in the Academy Award nominated documentary about polio, "The Final Inch."

In 2005, Mason was awarded an honorary doctorate from GWU. "Martha Mason was a wonderful and remarkable woman," said GWU President, Frank Bonner. "She had great courage and strong character, and she was the model of perseverance. In the face of challenges and great obstacles, she not only achieved her educational goals but excelled academically. She had a delightful personality and a keen intellect, and she was a delight to visit. The life story she wrote in 'Breath', and the life she lived are a tremendous inspiration to us all, and that inspiration will live on."

The Martha Mason Challenge Endowed Scholarship Fund was established with an initial gift from the Classes of 1958 and 1959 as part of their 50th reunion. The fund is open-ended and classmates, family and friends of Martha Mason may make additional contributions. All donations can be made in the form of cash, stocks, bonds or property and are tax deductible.

Preference will be given to students who are under the assistance of the NOEL Program for the Disabled. The Noel Program assists students with learning disabilities, physical restraints, limited or total blindness or deafness.

On-going efforts to fully endow the scholarship continue. If you are interested in making a contribution, please notify the Office of Alumni Relations by phone at 704-406-3862 or by e-mail at alumni@gardner-webb.edu.



MAKING YOUR LIFE A LITTLE EASIER, GWU GOAL ALUMNA, SUSAN RAYMER IS @ YOUR SERVICE

by Jamie Newton

"It doesn't take being in the work force long to realize the importance of a four-year-degree," said Susan Raymer. "After working for a few years, I knew that I needed to go back to school and complete my degree. I was in my mid-twenties when Gardner-Webb University brought a satellite campus to Winston-Salem, so I signed up as part of the first program here. Throughout the years I have recommended this program to many working adults who wanted to complete their degree. If you have a relevant two-year-degree, GWU makes the entry process very easy which is important when you are busy," said Raymer.

Raymer earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from GWU and then went on to earn a Master of Business Administration from Wake Forest University.

In 1999, Raymer wanted to create a company that offered concierge services to Winston-Salem and she started **@ Your Service**, with co-founder Sherry Allred. In the beginning it offered traditional concierge services such as running errands, waiting services, house sitting and personal services like pet sitting, important date reminders, personal chef services and many more. However, Raymer began to see a need for a home improvement referral service. **@ Your Service** also helps customers find reliable, competent companies based on the clients needs. "We do a lot of work in the real estate industry for people moving into or out of a house," said Raymer.

Over the past decade, **@ Your Service** has grown steadily and in 2005 was named the Small Business of the Year for a minority-owned business by the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce.

Although starting a business on her own was not easy, it has definitely been worth it for Raymer. "It takes time to start a business and it is very easy to get impatient and scared when it doesn't happen as quickly as you would like," said Raymer. "The rewards are great when you watch something grow from nothing."

For more information please visit www.atyoursrvc.com



LIVING WHAT YOU ARE TAUGHT

Karen Ellis, '86, Now Serving as DSS Director of Cleveland County

by Lauren Quesenberry



"My mother gave me strong morals and taught me the importance of giving to others," says Karen Ellis, '86, Cleveland County director of the Department of Social Services (DSS). "She was a wonderful role model and still is."

Ellis graduated from high school in 1982 and came directly to Gardner-Webb University where she started studying psychology and sociology inside and outside of the classroom. Ellis remembers, "Gardner-Webb coordinated an internship for me at the Cleveland County DSS which provided me with excellent job training. It was a valuable learning experience that made me even more determined to enter the social services field."

During the weekends, Ellis spent her time at Prevent Abuse in the Home (PATH) Shelter in Forest City, N.C. She worked long hours on weekends and spent her time studying during the week.

After she graduated Gardner-Webb in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and sociology, Ellis was hired as a counselor and coordinator for PATH. In 1990, Ellis was hired as a social worker for the Cleveland County DSS in the adult service unit.

Ellis speaks fondly of her experiences as a social worker, and especially her direct interaction with clients. Ellis states that it's all about "valuing a person to ask them what they want – even in time of crisis."

In 2008 she was unanimously voted the Cleveland County DSS director. As the county director, Ellis' responsibilities include the management of the DSS budget, personnel employment, relationships with local agencies, and responsibility of the six service departments.

CAROLYN MORRISON '88 B.S.
is an evangelist and has founded the Theological School of Excellence, Statesville, N.C. The School is the newest extension of the Christian Life Educators Network, a worldwide network operating schools of theology under the umbrella of Christian Life School of Theology. After 29 years of employment with Mitchell College, Morrison retired in 2007 as a library technician. She has four adult children and two grandsons.

SUSAN LINEBERGER '89 M.A.
is a teacher at Carr Elementary School in Dallas, N.C., and was honored by Office Max for "A Day Made Better." Office Max honored Lineberger with school supplies, desk chair, certificate, and flowers. She is married to Joe Lineberger and they have two sons, Joseph and John Ryan.

1990s

LYNN ANDERSON McGIMSEY '91 B.S.
has been promoted to vice president for Carolina First. She joined the bank in March 2001 as branch manager in Morganton, N.C.

JOHN "RODNEY" CAUDILL '92 B.S.
was recently promoted to chief executive officer of Property Damage Appraisers, Inc. by the company's board of directors. He was previously employed by Wilkes County Sheriff's Department where he served as Deputy Sheriff. Caudill is certified as a chartered property and casualty underwriter and an associate in claims. In addition, he recently completed his doctoral work in leadership studies at Dallas Baptist University. He and his wife, Sabrina Shaver Caudill, a 1993 alumna of Gardner-Webb, reside in Aledo, TX.

SERINA TRIPLETT HINSON '92 B.S.
was recently named finance director for the city of Newton, N.C. She has been a certified public accountant since 1994, and has more than 11 years of governmental accounting experience. Hinson is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants.

GAYLA WHITMIRE HUDSON '94 A.A.
was recently named director of nursing for Carolina Community Care Division by the administration of Rutherford Hospital. She and her husband Bobby reside in Bostic, N.C.

DEANA ASHE MCSWAIN '94 B.S.
along with her husband Jeremy and children have assumed the call to serve in a community and home outreach evangelism ministry in Moscow, Russia with the International Mission Board. A March 18 appointment service at Taylors First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., marked a time of celebration with family and friends.

TERESA HERMANSON SHACKLEFORD '95 B.S.
recently joined the Randolph County Partnership for Children as finance director. She is a licensed certified public accountant. Shackleford and her husband, Bob, President of Randolph Community College, live with their son Will in Randleman, N.C.

CHRISTOPHER MATTHEW ANDERSON '96 B.S.
is a state trooper stationed in Wilkes County, N.C. He and his wife Kimberly have one son, Matthew Douglas Anderson who was born Feb. 27, 2002.

ALUMNA PASSING
DIAN MOORE COOLEY '96 M.A.
died Feb. 4, 2009 after an extensive battle with cancer. She worked in the education field for 34 years, having taught in Alexander, Surry, and Wilkes County schools as well as Mount Airy and Elkin city schools. For the last 10 years she served as a consultant for Family and Consumer Sciences Education at the Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, N.C. She is survived by her husband of 33 years, two daughters, mother, grandson, brothers, and several nieces and nephews.

SUSAN CAROL DALE '96 B.S.
and James Wallace Phillips Jr. were married Jan. 18, 2009. Susan is a habitation specialist and case management trainer for New River Behavioral Healthcare and James is the director of cardio-pulmonary and neonatal transport services at Catawba Valley Medical Center. The couple now resides in Moravian Falls, N.C.

CHERYL ELIZABETH MOOSE '96 B.A.
and Perry Wesley Shuffler were married on Nov. 8, 2008 at Mountain Grove United Methodist Church. Cheryl is assistant editor at the News Herald and Perry is a special education teacher at East Burke Middle School and a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserves. The couple now resides in Morganton, N.C.

KEITH GORDON MCKINNEY '96 B.S., '00 M.DIV.
has accepted the call to serve as pastor of First Baptist Church, Rural Hall, N.C. Rev. McKinney and his wife Renee, and son Aiden reside in King, N.C.

CRYSTAL BAKER RAMBEAU '96 B.S.
and her husband James would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Kathryn Elise who was born on Nov. 8, 2008. Crystal is a family physician at Benson Area Medical Center. E-mail Crystal at crys_baker@yahoo.com.

KATHY JOHNSON '98 M.DIV
is pastor of Greater Shekinah Glory Church in Hickory, N.C., and she launched the Greater Dimensions College of Theology. Greater Dimensions is a fully accredited college and will serve as a satellite school of the North Carolina College of Theology.

AUBREY LETITIA MOORE '98 B.S.
and Curtis Jay Pearson were married on Jan. 24, 2009 at Green Street Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C. The Rev. Thomas Moore, a 1969 and 1971 Gardner-Webb alumnus is the bride's father. Aubrey is a social worker for Children's Homes of Cleveland County and Curtis works for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The couple now lives in Shelby, N.C. E-mail Aubrey at amchcc@bellsouth.net.

Class Acts

JOHN DALE ENAMAIT '99 B.S., '01 M.B.A.

was recently selected to participate in a statewide leadership program after a competitive application process for the North Carolina Community College Leadership Program. This six-month long program covers diversity, conflict resolution, and leading through change. Enamait is Associate Dean of the School of Business, Industry, and Technology for Catawba Valley Community College and is currently pursuing his doctorate in Technology Management with a specialization in digital communications at Indiana State University. He and his wife, Anissa, and their daughter live in Hudson, N.C.

ROBIN GORE HAMRICK '99 B.S., '00 M.B.A. and LEIF C. HAMRICK '03 B.S., '05 M.B.A.

celebrate the birth of their son Isaac Cline Hamrick, who was born on June 16, 2008. He was also welcomed by big brother Levi.

2000s

DEANNA CRESIMORE FINGER '00 M.A.

is principal at Tuttle Elementary School and has been named the 2009 Wachovia Northwest Region Principal of the Year. Before becoming principal, Finger was a mathematics teacher at Fred T. Ford, Brandy, and Bunker Hill high schools. She and her husband Dwayne have one son, Brandon; and two daughters, Natalie and Easton.

JENNIFER JOLLY HUSKEY '00 B.S.N.

and her husband Jeremy welcomed their new baby boy, Konnor Scott Huskey who was born on June 1, 2008. He has two older sisters, Kinsley and Karsyn.

TERRENCE JAMES O'MALIA '01 B.S.

graduated from medical school in May 2009 and is doing a family practice residency in Georgia.

CASSIDY NICOLE WILKINS '01 B.S.N.

and Stuart Scott Butler were joined in marriage April 5, 2008 at Chase Baptist Church. Cassidy is employed by the Foothills Nursing Consortium as a clinical

instructor, and Rutherford Hospital Outpatient Clinic as a registered nurse. Stuart is employed by All American Homes in Forest City, N.C. The couple lives in Forest City.

WILLIAM "SCOTT" SHUMATE '02 B.S.

was recently promoted to banking officer. Shumate, who joined the bank in 2006, is a software systems programmer in BB&T's Information Technology Operating Systems and Storage Management Department.

CHRISTOPHER TATE CAMPBELL '03 B.S.

and wife Natalie, welcomed a second daughter, Elizabeth Joyce Campbell, who was born on Dec. 4, 2008. She weighed 8-pounds, 5-ounces, and has an older sister, Neely.

WESLEY STEVEN DELLINGER '03 B.S.

married Kelly Tiernan on Nov. 15, 2008 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Charlotte, N.C. He is currently employed by UPS and she is a senior application specialist with Carolinas Healthcare System. The couple resides in Charlotte, N.C.

CARI ELIZABETH HAMRICK '03 B.S.

and Andrew Michael Wilson were married at Polkville Baptist Church on Sept. 13, 2008. She is employed by The New You Salon in Shelby, N.C., and Andrew is the co-owner of Wilson Farms in Shelby. The couple now resides in Shelby.

TARA ELIZABETH HOSTETLER '03 B.A.

was married to Greg M. Gardner on Dec. 20, 2008 in Tallahassee, Fla. In 2007, Tara completed her master of arts degree in English at Florida State University. She is an editor with CTB/McGraw-Hill, and Greg is a consultant with Ariba. The couple resides in Tallahassee.

JEREMY BRUCE MAHAFFEY '03 B.A.

and Beverly Hutchins were united in marriage on May 10 at Hull's Grove Baptist Church. The couple now resides in Vale, N.C. Jeremy works for Hull's Grove Baptist Church and Beverly is attending Catawba Valley Community College where she is working toward a degree in accounting.

AMANDA YARBROUGH McDANIEL '03 B.A.

and her husband Eddie would like to announce the birth of their son Anden Blace McDaniel who was born on Jan. 5, 2009 and weighed 7-pounds, 2-ounces. Anden also has an older sister, Jessie.

AMY CALLAHAN WALKER '03 B.A. and BRYON J. WALKER '06 B.S.

would like to announce the birth of their son, Benjamin Jackson Walker. He was born Aug. 31, 2008 at 5:28 p.m. He weighed 9-pounds, 6-ounces, and was 21 and 1/2 inches long.

KRISTIE MARIE BRINKLEY '04 B.S.

was inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame on May 9, 2009. At Kings Mountain High School, Brinkley was a three-time all conference volleyball player. She was named SWC Player of the Year and MVP in the state tournament during her senior year. She also played on two Junior Olympic Teams that won state championships. She holds the record at Gardner-Webb for career high kills in a game (29) and ranks fourth in kills per game in a single season, fifth in kills for a season, a seventh in kills in all-time career records. She had 1,025 kills and 98 serving aces during her volleyball career at Gardner-Webb.

LINDSEY WARNER DONNAN '04 B.A.

and her husband David are proud to announce the birth of their second child, Mollie Elizabeth, who was born Jan. 8, 2009. They have relocated to Easley, S.C., where David has taken a job as a branch manager of Woodforest Bank in Anderson, S.C.

Did you know

that Earl Scruggs received an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities in 1986.

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE

GWU Graduate Composes Easter Cantata

by Meredith White

When the Rev. Brian Childers '03 could not find an Easter Cantata suitable for his church choir, he decided to write his own. "There is so much great music written for Christmas," Childers said. "But, there is a lack of music to choose from for Easter." His cantata titled "When Morning Broke the Sky" tells the Easter story from Jesus' entrance to Jerusalem to his death and resurrection. Childers is the minister of music at First Baptist Church in Mt. Holly, N.C.

Childers graduated from Gardner-Webb University with a master of divinity in church music in 2003. "The faculty there are wonderful," said Childers, "I had so many great professors who were very professional and also personal," Childers said.

When Childers graduated from high school and entered college, he thought he would do something in composition. Becoming a music minister was far from his intentions. But, after getting married during college, Childers found a part-time job as a music director. "My organ professor found out about a church in Morganton, N.C., that needed a part-time music director," Childers said. "Honestly, I took the job because I needed the money. While I was there, God ministered to me through that church and showed me that I could be a minister."

Childers did not completely give up on composition, though. He still composes quite a bit whenever he can find the time. While the cantata is Childers' largest work, he has composed several smaller pieces for handbells, trumpet and piano.

Churches can contact Childers directly by phone at 704-460-4623 or by e-mail at Coplandsp@carolina.rr.com if they are interested in his Easter cantata.



A+ TEACHER

Sherri Hartley '04 Named Teacher of the Year

by Meredith White



Gardner-Webb Graduate, Sherri Hartley, '04, has been named the 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year for Davidson County, N.C. Hartley teaches kindergarten at Reeds Elementary School in Lexington, N.C. With both of her parents serving in the education system, Hartley grew up around the school structure. She knew from an early age that she wanted to teach. "It was always my plan to educate others," Hartley said. "Early on, I taught swimming lessons, babysat, and worked as a counselor at the YMCA. I was around children a lot and saw teaching children as a future."

Hartley earned degrees from Davidson Community College and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte prior to earning her Master of Arts degree in school administration from Gardner-Webb University. "I had always planned to further my education," Hartley said. "Gardner-Webb offered a wonderful opportunity for me to grow as a teacher."

Hartley serves on a number of school and district committees including the curriculum leadership team, a lead mentor at Reeds Elementary, and a member of the induction committee to help new teachers get adjusted. "The degree has helped me with leadership skills although I am still in the classroom," Hartley said. "I love to grow as an educator. I'm a very passionate learner."

Hartley finds her career rewarding because she knows she is starting the process of life-long learning. "It enables me to begin the educational lives of those who will one day be our leaders. I'm laying a foundation for that learning that will last a lifetime."

For Hartley, winning the Teacher of the Year Award has been an honor. First, she was voted the Teacher of the Year by teachers and staff at her school. "It is the greatest compliment to be recommended by the people you work with," she said. Next, she submitted a portfolio, participated in interviews, and classroom observations to compete against 32 elementary, middle, and high school teachers for the County Teacher of the Year Award. "I am merely a reflection of all those teachers who taught me and the wonderful school system I am a part of," said Hartley. "Also, I owe a lot to my students because my greatest teachers have been my students."

Class Acts

KATHERINE MARIE THRALL '04 B.A. and CHAD WILLIAM MERRITT '03 I.M.B.

were united in marriage on Oct. 18, 2008 at Orange United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill, N.C. Chad works at Merritt Marine in Hillsborough and Katherine is an Attorney for Orange County, N.C.

NATALIE GRACE WATER '04 A.A., '05 B.S.N., '07 M.S.N.

and Clayton Chandler Putnam were united in marriage on Sept. 20, 2008 at Bethel Baptist Church. Natalie is a nursing instructor for Greenville Technical College and Clay is a structural engineer with Metromont Corporation in Greenville, S.C. The couple now lives in Greenville.

MAGGIE DIANE KOON '05 B.A.

recently received her second distinguished arts program grant worth \$20,000 from the South Carolina Department of Education for improving arts education at the new Eagle Nest Elementary School in North Charleston, S.C. Maggie resides in Ladson, S.C.

RYAN PATRICK McGIRR '05 B.S.

was recently promoted to assistant vice president for BB&T. Ryan, who joined the bank in 2005, is a financial center leader at BB&T in Kernersville, N.C. He lives in Kernersville with his wife, Julie, and son, Preston.

DEBORAH DAWN GADDIS '06 M.DIV.

and Stephen Kelly Reeves were married on Oct. 18, 2008 at Boiling Springs Baptist Church in Boiling Springs, N.C. Deborah is a certified chaplain under the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and an ordained minister. She is employed by St. David's South Austin Hospital in Austin, TX. Stephen is a member of the State Bar of Texas and is the public policy legislative counsel for The Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Austin. They live in Austin.

DANA LYNN HILL '06 B.S.

and Roger Kenneth Thomas were united in marriage on Sept. 27, 2008 at Hominy Valley Singing Grounds in Chandler, N.C. Dana is a teacher at Mountain View

Elementary School in Morganton, N.C. and Roger is the assistant vice president of wealth management at Community One Bank in Wilkesboro, N.C. The couple now resides in Wilkesboro.

AARON CHARLES KINDLEY '06 M.DIV.

was called to serve at Moffett Memorial Baptist Church on Jan. 5, 2009 as minister of youth, children & families. E-mail Aaron at aaronkindley@moffettmemorial.org.

ALUMNA PASSING

MANISHA SARASWAT KRATOCHVIL '06 M.B.A.

died March 2, 2008 at her home. She was the director of the Advanced Wound Care Center at Southern Hills Medical Center and had worked for Milliken & Company in Spartanburg, S.C. before moving to Nashville, Tenn. She is survived by her husband, John, two small children, Tushar & Eshaone; one brother, Manoj; one sister, Anju; and her parents, Jagdish and Darshan.

DOUBLE TEAM

Mother & Daughter Earn Graduate Degrees Together

by Jamie Newton



Patsy Ware

Patsy Ware and Renee Woody are more than just mother and daughter. They are best friends, confidants and were also 'study buddies' as they pursued their master's degree in Educational Administration from Gardner-Webb University.

Ware who teaches fourth grade at Bethware Elementary School in Cleveland County has been teaching for over 15 years. Her daughter, Renee also teaches fourth grade at Grover Elementary School in Cleveland County, and has been teaching for seven years.

"Renee wanted to go back for her master's degree. After deciding Gardner-Webb was the school to attend, she came to me and told me that it was time for us to go back together. We made an agreement that we would go through the entire program as a team; like we do many other things in life," said Ware.

They took every class together, discussed readings, studied for exams, worked on group projects together and proofed each other's work for papers and articles. "We were able to talk about every step of the way that we took through our master's journey. We were able to laugh, cry and fuss together about the journey. We were a solid support for each other. Our experience at Gardner-Webb University was rewarding," said Ware.

They still enjoy swapping and sharing teaching ideas and working closely with one another. "Teaching elementary students is a rewarding job that only a teacher will truly ever understand. To know that you are needed, wanted and loved by a class full of children is a reward that words may never explain," said Woody.

"Another great reward is seeing the academic growth these children make over the passing days of a school year," said Ware. "Their abilities by the end of the year are astonishing and can even bring a tear of joy to your eyes to see how much the children blossom."

Ware and Woody completed their graduate degrees in December of 2007.



Renee Woody

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JENNIFER TITUS '06 B.S.

was recently accepted to the University of Maryland Dental School, DDS class of 2012.

JESSICA ANN RUDISILL '06 B.S. and STEVEN RUSSELL GRIBBLE '06 B.A.
were married on Sept. 20, 2008 at First United Methodist Church in Gastonia, N.C. The couple now resides in Spartanburg, S.C.

SHANA CHRISTINE SANDERS '06 B.A.
and Richard Windle were married on Oct. 18, 2008. Shana is a sign language interpreter and Richard is a financial analyst.

JOSHUA V. HOUSER '07 B.S.
graduated from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Columbus, GA. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Houser was tested on leadership skills and team work abilities required of a commissioned officer. Houser learned to utilize acquired skills to function in "leader and follower" positions in squad and platoon sized elements, and evaluated

in various leadership garrison positions while in a stressful and demanding field environment.

MARSHALL "KELLY" OVERCASH '07 M.B.A.

was selected to manage Community ONE Bank's offices in West Hickory, N.C. and Viewmont, N.C. He assumes this position with 28 years of banking experience. He is a member of the Hickory Sunrise Rotary Club.

MITCHELL GREY HARDY '08 M.B.A.
and Brittany Mellow were married on Sept. 20, 2008 at Salem Baptist Church. He is employed with Pike Electric, Inc. The couple resides in King, N.C.

DAVID E. MCDONALD, II '08 M.A.
has been commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army National Guard. McDonald, a platoon leader, is a Member of the 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery in Charlotte, N.C. He has served in the military since 2002.

RICHARD THOMAS WELLS '08 B.S.

and Sarah Jean McDonald were married on Oct. 4, 2008 at First Presbyterian Church in Concord, N.C. Rick, a former criminal investigator for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, is currently a residential building inspector with Advantage Inspection of the Charlotte metro area. Sarah is an interior designer and owner of Simple Solution Interiors in Cornelius, N.C. The couple resides in Cornelius.

GAIL DENISE WHISNANT '08 M.A.

and Gordon Langley were united in marriage on March 7, 2009 at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Hickory, N.C. Gail is a teacher for Catawba County Schools and Gordon is employed by Smith Turf and Irrigation in Charlotte, N.C. The couple resides in Polkville, N.C.

Share your news If you have a personal or professional accomplishment you would like to share like a new job, birth announcement, or a wedding, we would like to hear from you.

Submit your class notes online at:
www.supportgwu.com or alumni@gardner-webb.edu



In the spring issue of Gardner-Webb – The Magazine, a group of approximately 225 donors to the University were inadvertently excluded from the 2007-08 Honor Roll of Donors. We apologize for this error.

The University greatly appreciates the contributions that you have made to sustain its growth and that of its students. Thank you for your generous support.

Sincerely,



Steve Varley
Vice President, Development



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GARDNER-WEBB HONORS FACULTY AND STAFF

Annual Recognition Program included Excellence in Teaching Award

By Paul Foster

Each year Gardner-Webb finds the time to celebrate the accomplishments of faculty and staff at the “Apples and Accolades Awards Luncheon.” Honors were presented for excellence in teaching, community engagement, staff members of the year, those retiring and those completing 10 and 25 years of service.

The Gardner-Webb Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to two individuals this year. The first recipient was Dr. Dan Goodman, (professor and Bob D. Shepherd Chair of New Testament interpretation), who passed away unexpectedly in January. Goodman was famous for challenging traditional methods of thinking. This was obvious in his continued work in Jewish-Christian relations. Gardner-Webb President, Dr. Frank Bonner said when speaking of Goodman, “He was known as the ultimate encourager, by constantly encouraging others, and enabling the good in them.” Also awarded for Excellence in Teaching Award was Dr. Matt Theado, professor in the department of English, Theado was praised for blending professionalism with humor in the classroom, for being easily approachable, and for constantly going above and beyond to help students. Theado was also recognized for his volunteerism activities outside of the University, including co-captain of a biking team that raises funds to benefit those afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis.

Community Engagement Awards are given in keeping with the Gardner-Webb motto Pro Deo et Humanitate (for God and Humanity). Recipients are recognized for their civic responsibility through active participation and service to the community at large. The staff winner of this award was Dr. Tracy Jessup, assistant dean of students and minister to the University. “At this stage in my life, I feel called to give back in areas and places in which my two kids are involved. I reap the benefits of spending quality time with them and other children who might otherwise spend little time with an adult who genuinely cares about them,” said Jessup.

Dr. Cindy McKinney, professor and coordinator of elementary education, was honored in the faculty category. McKinney has volunteered with such groups as Cleveland County CORE, whose focus is closing the Achievement Gap and a female forum initiative to create informal mentoring sessions with students at middle and secondary school level.

Staff Member of the Year Awards are presented to those who stand out for their dedication to the University and its students. Lou Ann Scates, registrar, was named the female recipient, while Joey Bridges, associate vice-president of technology services was selected the male recipient.

Scates was noted as being patient, persistent, and caring to both students and faculty. Co-workers said Bridges has the ability to handle stress effectively and efficiently, despite many distractions surrounding him on a daily basis.

Retirement awards were presented to Lorin Cranford - professor of religion, Valerie Parry – dean of libraries for John R. Dover Memorial Library, and Dean of the School of Education - Donna Simmons.

Faculty and Staff Members were also honored for their years of service to the University.

• 25-Year Recipients: David Jones and Kevin Jones.

• 10-Year Recipients: Ken Baker, Don Berry, Kelly Brame, Randall Cooper, Sharon Edwards, Denise McKee, Kevin Mounce, Paula Qualls, Laura Simmons, Mike Simpson, and Ron Williams.



Dr. Dan Goodman and his wife, Barbara



Dr. Matt Theado



Dr. Tracy Jessup



Dr. Cindy McKinney



Lou Ann Scates



Joey Bridges



DIALING ALL 'DOGS

Along with football season and crisp morning air, you have probably come to expect a phone call from the GWU Annual Fund each fall, and we thank you for the support you've pledged during those calls. This past fall, however, you may have noticed something a little different about our phone call to you. We are working hard to develop positive relationships with alumni and friends because it is your generosity that makes Gardner-Webb a better university.

We have revamped the Annual Fund Phonathon to bring you fulfilling conversations and exciting news about the University. Our Student Development Officers (SDOs) are often the only contact many of you have with Gardner-Webb each year, and that is why we want our SDOs to be a valuable resource for you.

The SDOs strive to inform, engage, and bond with every person they contact. Freshman nursing student Miranda Sanders finds as much satisfaction in her conversations as she does in securing a gift to the Annual Fund.

"After talking with an alumna and finding that she had recently been laid off, I offered her the contact information for our career services office. She was so grateful for the information, and thanked me again and again during our conversation. This was one of the best experiences I have had during Phonathon!"

GWU's alumni have been eager to share more than financial support, offering anecdotes, advice and occasionally job opportunities to these current students. During the '09 Phonathon, an alumnus offered an internship to one SDO after the conversation found both parties had much in common. Another SDO was invited to visit a local organization to further discuss her interest in a social work career.

Sometimes the advice given by GWU alumni is exactly what students need for motivation. Samantha Riebold, a sophomore studying Biology, shares one of her most memorable conversations.

"I spoke with a Gardner-Webb Junior College alum who offered a great story and piece of advice. He truly is a life-long learner (still taking classes today) which is encouraging to me. But his most valuable words were 'Don't stub your toe on some no-good boy; get to where you're going and there will be more than enough to pick from!' My perspective of college and life in general is better for that advice, especially as I work toward a doctoral degree in medicine."

Your gifts to the GWU Annual Fund provide so many students with an excellent education, and make it possible for the University to continue to improve year after year. In addition to this generosity, the wisdom you impart on our current students is invaluable. Just as you give back to GWU, we want to reciprocate by sharing with you all that we have accomplished as a University.

So as you peek at the Caller ID and notice a GWU phone number this fall, keep in mind that these students want to hear your experience and are excited to share what your support is helping GWU provide for them and students like them.

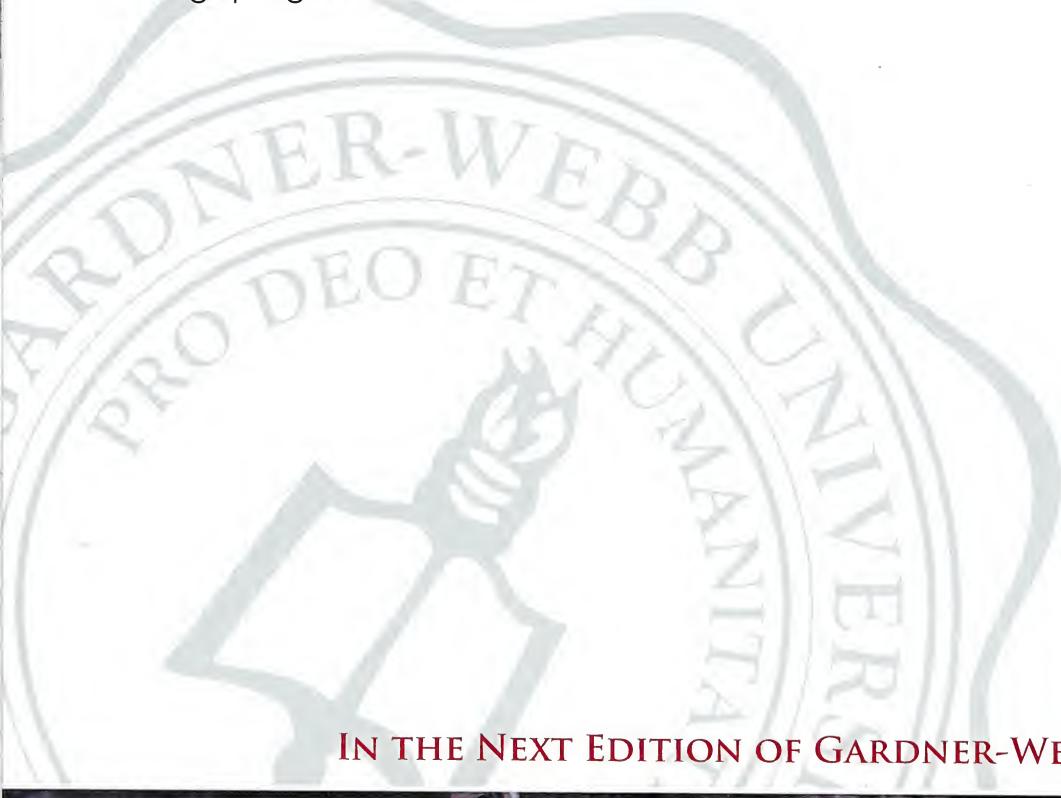
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35 YEARS AT GWU

